

Application No. 09/786,435

Filed: March 20, 2001

TC Art Unit: 1645

Confirmation No.: 1324

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing neuronal apoptosis by inhibiting the biological activity of transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β) on damaged neurons in a cerebral disorders, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

providing a patient having damaged neurons, said damaged neurons ~~resulting from~~ caused by a cerebral disorder, ~~wherein said cerebral disorder is not intentionally induced;~~ and

treating said damaged neurons in said patient with a first compound that prevents neuronal apoptosis by ~~inhibits~~ inhibiting the biological activity of TGF- β on said damaged neurons.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, ~~in pharmaceutically effective amounts,~~ a first compound for preventing neuronal apoptosis by inhibiting the biological activity of TGF- β on damaged neurons caused by a cerebral disorders, ~~wherein said cerebral disorder is not intentionally induced,~~ and

a second compound for disintegrating blood clots, wherein said first and second compounds are formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition ~~according to~~ of claim 5, wherein said first compound is an antibody directed to

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TGF- β or a said first compound ~~having~~ has a the binding site of a TGF- β receptor.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition ~~according to~~ of claim 5, wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of urokinase, thrombin, and tissue plasminogen activator.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first compound preventing neuronal apoptosis by inhibiting the biological activity of TGF- β is selected from the group consisting of ~~(1)~~ an antibody to TGF- β , ~~(2)~~ an antagonist to TGF- β , and ~~(3)~~ a compound composition altering TGF- β .

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said first compound is selected from the group consisting of TGF- β inhibitors,

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a composition compounds having ~~the~~ a binding site of a TGF- β receptor, and TGF- β RII/Fc chimeric protein.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises treating said patient with a second compound for disintegrating blood clots.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of urokinase, thrombin, and tissue plasminogen activator.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 or 17, wherein said first or second compound is administered intravenously, orally or intracerebrally.